

1998年8月

01_feline -August, 1998-



A cat?

Why?
Can't you
do it?

Uh-
huh.

I want to,
but I have
work to do.
So I'll be gone
for a while.

Can you
take care
of it for
a while?



You haven't gotten used to that artificial arm yet, right?

I have stuff to do too, you know...

That's not good.

You've just gotten that injury. For now, you should rest.



But I'll leave a bit more cat food here.

I think I'll be back in two days.



And I already know that you're a good kitty



That kind of negligence is the most dangerous.

...It's fine.



...What
a pushy
guy...



...Well
then, I'll
leave
the rest
to you

Hey!
I didn't
say
I'd...



...



Hey,
it's
time
to eat...

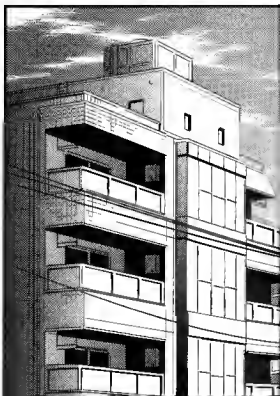
OW!



... Good
grief,
why do
I have
to do
this...

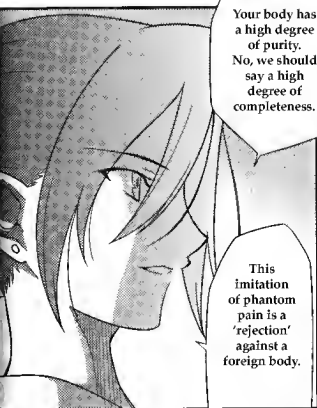


Damn it...
Touko...





The
artificial
arm hurts?



Your body has
a high degree
of purity.
No, we should
say a high
degree of
completeness.

This
imitation
of phantom
pain is a
'rejection'
against a
foreign body.



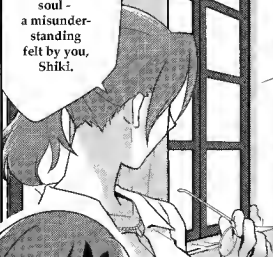
Yeah.
Can you
do
something
about it?

Well,
I didn't
really
expect
this to
happen.



If you know so much about this, you can do something, right?

Something like that can't cause this. This is a problem of the soul - a misunderstanding felt by you, Shiki.



So it's not a mistaken rejection reaction?



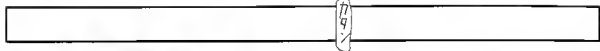
Hang in there.



Yeah, all right







Wait,
what the?

Excuuuuse
me...

I heard that
something
big
happened,
but aren't
you totally
fine?





Here, take this.

That's too bad, not being able to see you weak and helpless.



That idiot Kokutou made a fuss. He's way too protective.

I should be the one who "takes this"



I can't tell if he's being hatefully energetic or using this as an excuse to be extremely extravagant...



Shiki, you have a cat?

A cat?

But it's soo cute, no way!

Kokutou left it here.

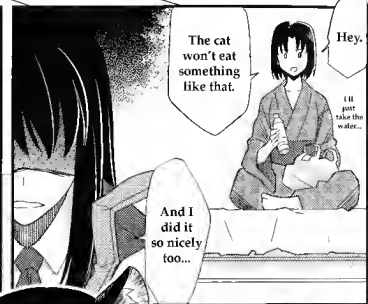


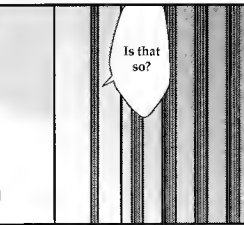
Hey...

...What's this? You eat this corner store stuff?

I brought this because Mikiya asked me to and I had no choice, so just humbly accept it and... Hm?

Convenience Store










Did the two of you get along a bit at least?



Hmm? But this is a pretty willful cat, no? Maybe it was just my imagination.

We didn't. It doesn't play by itself when you weren't around.



Ah, were you a good kitty?


...Damn you...



We'll go meet your new mother tomorrow.



I've found a foster parent for you.



No... I would if I could, but my job is really busy, so the house will be empty.

Aren't you going to take care of it?



...I see

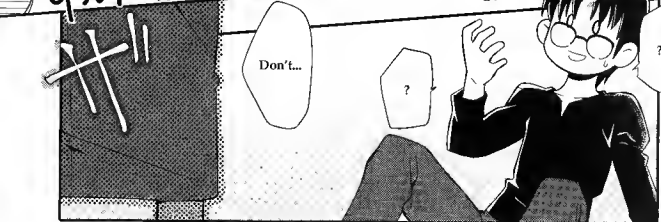
But it's strong. It'll forget all this in three days and be used to its new parents.



It wants to stay with you.



Ouch...



Don't...



Don't
you
look
down
on the
cat!

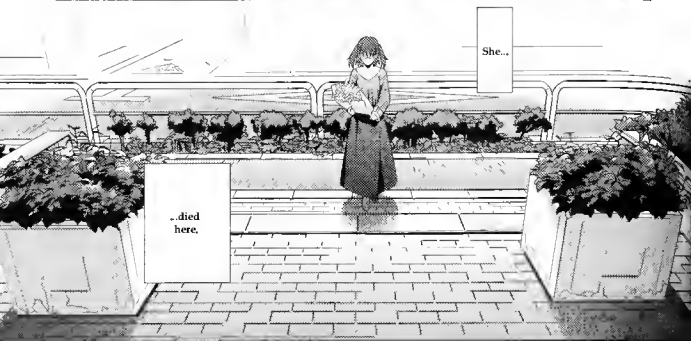


Sorry.

A-ah...?



..The last
day of
the summer.



She...

...died
here,

1998年10月

02_daylight -October, 1998-

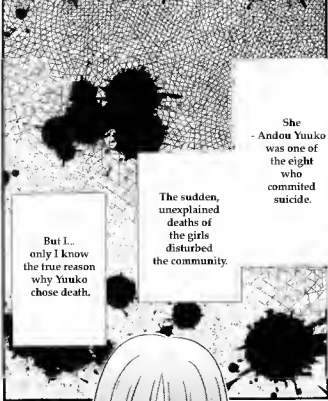
The eight girls
were not
associated
to one another
in any way
save one.
None of them
left a will.

Two months
ago, there were
eight cases
of girls killing
themselves
jumping off
the Fujou
Building.





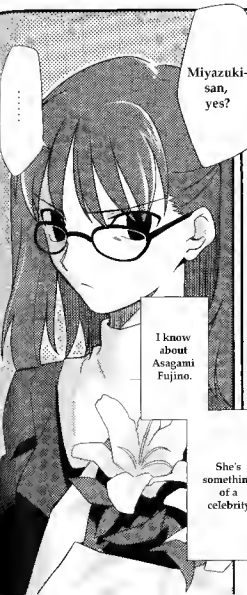
It was...



She
- Andou Yuuko -
was one of
the eight
who
committed
suicide.

The sudden,
unexplained
deaths of
the girls
disturbed
the community.

But I...
only I know
the true reason
why Yuuko
chose death.



Miyazuki-
san,
yes?

That
voice...

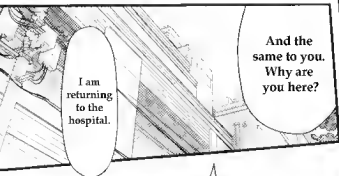
I know
about
Asagami
Fujino.

She's
something
of a
celebrity.



You
are...

Asagami
Fujino...



I am
returning
to the
hospital.

And the
same to you.
Why are
you here?



This is the
Fujou
Building,
isn't it?



Apparently-
she lost
most of her
sight at the
time of
the accident.

After an
accident,
she was
hospitalised,
where she
stayed until
recently.

Um...
Why
are you....?



I'm
sorry

How
inconsi-
derate.

That's enough!
I don't need
to hear about
Yuuko
from someone
who's
not even
slightly
related to
the matter!



Then this
is where
Andou-
san -



But I won't
let her talk
about Yuuko
with that,
"I understand,
I know how it is"
know-it-all face.

Her eyes
were
pitying.



Hey,
is it
true...

There's one
other reason
why
Asagami Fujino
is famous.

That you
were involved
in that
serial murder
incident
seven
months ago?



But please
consider
them
carefully...

I understand,
I know how
it is. Perhaps
my words
will not
reach you...

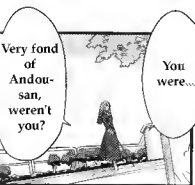


Miyazuki-
san?

You...!



Ah, nothing.
Well, if you
know any
vicious killers
be sure to
introduce
them to me.



Very fond
of
Andou-
san,
weren't
you?

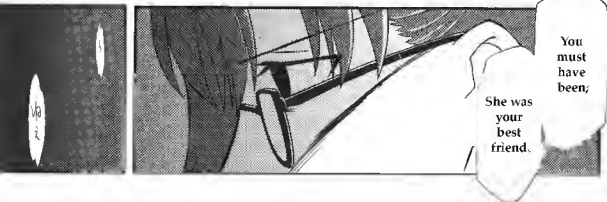
You
were...



Miya-
zuki-
san.

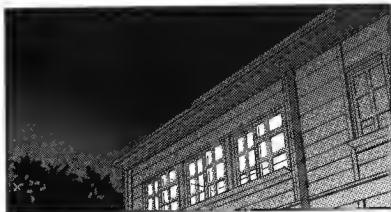


...What do
you mean?



You
must
have
been;

She was
your
best
friend.



Hey,
let's do
this
together.

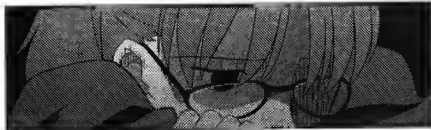


Yuuko...

That'd be
fantastic,
don't you
think?



Killing your
own future
and living
forever...



She leapt out
in order to
reach eternity.

Let's do
this
together.



But going
alone
would be
scary.

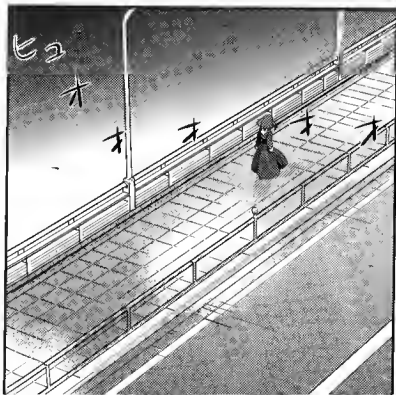
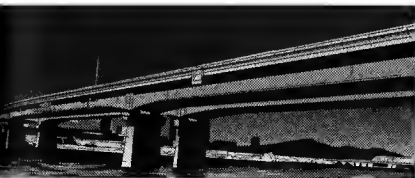
I...

She's
left me
behind...

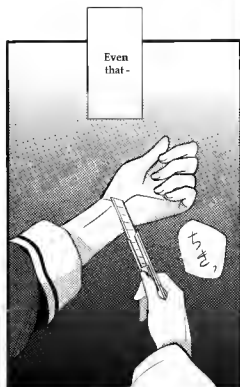
I...

I couldn't
do it.
going
together
with her

I don't need
a future that
contained
nothing
but filth; those
words got
through to me.



As I'd
thought,
I can't live
on by
myself.



Even
that -



I don't
know
the
means...

So I guess
I'll just
throw
myself
off right
here.



Wha..
Asagami,
Fujino?

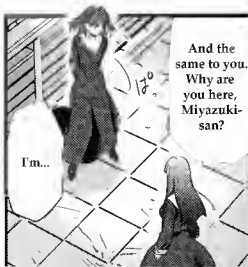
Why
are
you...



Good
evening,
Miyazuki-
san.



...Going to
kill yourself?



And the
same to you.
Why are
you here,
Miyazuki-
san?

I'm...





That's...

...?

Bend.

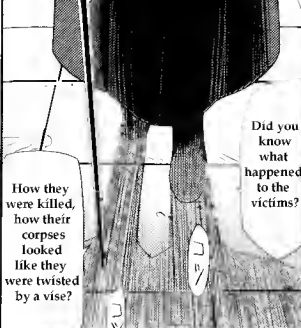
Kyal



What's going on...?

ほう


What is this?



How they were killed, how their corpses looked like they were twisted by a vise?

Did you know what happened to the victims?

!!



Miyazuki-san, earlier, you were talking about the serial murders seven months ago.

Have you realized yet?

Those rumours... they said...

No way.

It cannot have been humanly possible.

It can't be...



That vicious killer was me.

Ah that's not a good idea



I'm only doing this because I have no choice - I have to help you

No matter what justification I had, it was unforgivable.

Aaah, but...

There isn't much difference between six corpses and seven, is there...?

It's no use... I can't get away...

I regretted it very much.

ゴッゴッ

Believe...

No matter what...

Just...

Let's do
this
together.

...Hey.

...I see

The two
of us,
leaving
behind
this world,
this future,
forever.

殺してる!!

私
は
死
な
な
い

TL note: Just go ahead, and kill me!

That
always
happened...

Yuuko
told me
off with a
worried
smile

Ha,
you
traitor.

If I
have
to live
in this
mess
of a
future
I'd
rather
just
die
messily.

I was
left
behind...

But the one
who fell
was her alone.


The one
who was
tempted
was me.
I was
inconsi-
derate.

That
would be
fantastic.



The one thing
that lured me
and my
inconsi-
derateness
into death...

Was definitely
the way she
said she
would
"kill"
the future.



Yesterday, I
found out
what happened
to the Andou.
The family
collapsed,
shouldering
enormous
debts.

Yuuko and her
mother, who
found her body,
were at an
impasse
regarding
her future.

It'd be
the same
for me...
whether
I die
or not...



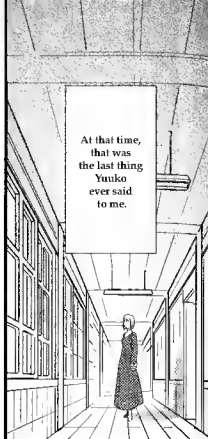
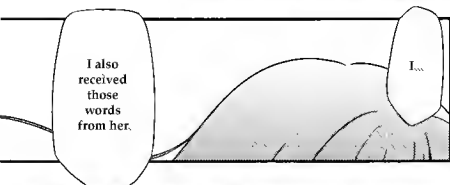
I say...



I want you
to believe
that this
world
is beautiful.

No matter
how cruel
it is...

That -





...Asagami
Fujino...



Once I
had
killed.

I realised.



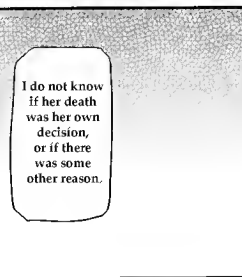
What,
they were
looking at...

I wonder
where her
softening eyes
were gazing.



They were,
beyond
doubt,
a prayer.

But
those
words -



I do not know
if her death
was her own
decision,
or if there
was some
other reason.



I do not
understand
the pain
that
Andou-san
felt.



It would
be good
if they
reached you.

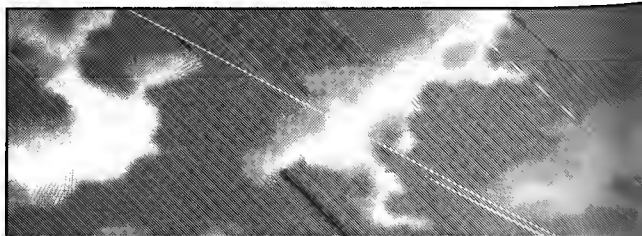
And...

Her sins,
and my sins,
they can never
be forgiven
for the rest
of our lives.

But those strong,
deep eyes,
accepting
everything
until the end...

They're...

Somehow,
they're
just like Yuuko's.



A close-up of a young girl with short, light-colored hair and large, dark eyes. She has a slightly sad or thoughtful expression. The background is dark and textured.

...Foolish
and cruel.

It was...

A dramatic scene showing a bright beam of sunlight cutting through a dark, cloudy sky. The light reflects off a surface below, creating a strong contrast.

The darkness
was pierced
by sunlight.

A close-up of a young boy's face, looking upwards with a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of awe or surprise. His hair is dark and messy.

But...

Ah...

A wide landscape view featuring a river in the foreground. In the background, there is an industrial facility with a tall smokestack and various buildings under a cloudy sky.

It was the
loving prayer
of the girl
whose heart
was always
white
with pain.



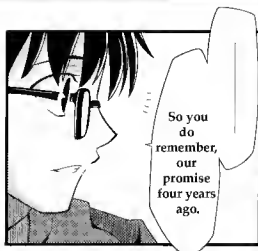
...Not
really.



Isn't it cold
Shiki?

Haa..

1998年12月 03_say grace -December, 1998-

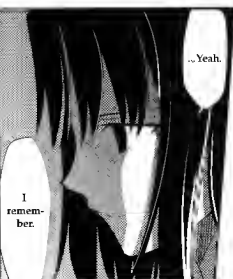


So you
do
remember,
our
promise
four years
ago.



You really
surprised
me, asking
me to come
with you.

Hey,
you were
the one
who
brought
it up.





It ran off to find something. I'm taking care of it again, for a bit.

So in the end, it's still there.

Wha-!

...
!!



A while after, it ran away from its foster parent's place.



It still remembers me.

When I picked it up, it started licking my face.



That's why I took it to a foster family.

I thought you couldn't keep it at your place?



Even though it's been three months...

But you were right Shiki.





You're
here
with me,
so it's
fine.



Eh?



...Forget it!









One way
or another...

I'll be
looking
forward
to a new
year
with you.



From now on,
for you,
and the
world that
surrounds you.

...Mm.



There
will be
happiness.



**A prayer
is something
overflowing
with the good
news of
the future.**